

RECEIVED

EIS002253

FEB 22 2000

16 FACILITATOR HOLMES: Thomas Lorienz, followed by
17 Helen Herrera.

18 MR. LORIENZ: My name is Tom Lorienz. I live in
19 Rancho Cucamonga. I may be the most unusual person in
20 here because I have had the opportunity to live in
21 California, both in West Covina and Rancho Cucamonga
22 back in 1990, 1990-'91. I moved to Nevada. I moved to
23 Pahrump, Nevada, which is in Nye County, the site county
24 for the Yucca Mountain.

25 Having been involved in government and serving
0106

01 on a committee in the City of West Covina, I, of course,
02 immediately got involved in the government in Pahrump.
03 Of course, at that time it was easy because we only had
04 7,000 people. I was the assistant to the town manager
05 for a short period. Almost immediately I started going
06 to Yucca Mountain meetings. Some of the first Yucca
07 Mountain meetings in Pahrump with the governor's staff,
08 with the DOE, I found it very fascinating -- I was on
09 one of the first trips to Yucca Mountain before the
10 boring. In fact, they just started core sampling. And
11 I love that picture on the front of that thing because I
12 always remember being up on top of the mountain.

13 In 1994 I was appointed to a committee for
14 economic development for the Nevada Test Site. Now,
15 while we didn't have any direct involvement in Yucca
16 Mountain, certainly the people on that committee --
17 which involved three counties around the Nevada Test
18 Site -- had to be acutely aware of what Yucca Mountain
19 was going to do to development in our county.

20 You saw Les Bradshaw here earlier. He was our
21 staff person. In fact, he made up the name of our
22 committee. I will always be indebted to Les Bradshaw
23 and the commissioners of Nye County for allowing me to
24 be on this committee, because I also got involved in the
25 Department of Energy and became acutely aware of their
0107

01 policies in Yucca Mountain and the Nevada Test Site.

/

02 I always believed, Bob -- I am going to say
03 this, and I know you don't like this -- but I always
04 believed that the State of Nevada co-opted our
05 committee. It was always the State of Nevada and nobody
06 else.

07 I was sad because I know there was a place for
08 us for economic development at the state site. Up until
09 Kenny Guinn came in, I always believed that the State of
10 Nevada had a very contentious relationship with the
11 Department of Energy, unlike Nye County, who had a
12 pretty cooperative relationship with the Department of
13 Energy.

14 Now that I moved back to San Bernardino County
15 and live in Rancho Cucamonga and these issues are coming
16 up -- by the way, it was 1991 when I knew that these
17 casks were going to be coming through this area. So it
18 hasn't been hidden from anybody. I was never kicked out
19 of a meeting. I never yelled at anybody. I have seen
20 the casks; I seen the films. I have never been
21 prevented from seeing anything that I wanted about Yucca
22 Mountain.

23 But now that I am here in San Bernardino
24 County, I wanted to pass on, I hope, a little bit of
25 wisdom to the State of California and to San Bernardino
0108

01 County. Don't get into this contentious relationship
02 with the Department of Energy. There's a law of physics
03 where there's equal and opposite reaction. You start to
04 blow smoke up their rear end, and they will do it to
05 you.

06 There's nothing wrong in -- it's a blessing to
2... 07 have been in Nye County, because Nye County has the
08 unique position of having an oversight office. And the
09 oversight office could go to the DOE and say: We don't
10 believe what you are saying is scientifically valid.
11 And we did that.

12 And we -- and they were very respectful of our
13 wishes, and we showed them, and we came up with new

...2 14 drilling methods for Yucca Mountain. Now, they could
 15 have completely ignored us; they could have even said
 16 you can't even have oversight. If everything we have
 17 heard in this room by certain people is true, then that
 18 never would have occurred. I believe the DOE is on the
 19 right track. I don't swallow everything that they are
 20 saying. I don't think San Bernardino and California
 3... 21 should swallow everything that they are saying. I think
 22 there's some problems about going up the Cajon Pass.

23 FACILITATOR HOLMES: We are at four minutes.

...3 24 MR. LORIENZ: Okay. There has to be, I believe,
 25 almost a mile-by-mile, half-mile-by-half-mile evaluation

0109

01 of the tracks all the way to Yucca Mountain. And if
 02 they find these tracks deficient, in cooperation with
 03 the railroad, get them fixed. Put them at such a level
 04 that they never -- that they will never be afraid of
 05 putting those casks on those trains, because they know
 06 that track won't fail.

07 The failures of coming down Cajon Pass, by the
 08 way, were trains coming down. You remember the one ten
 09 years ago that ran right into a neighborhood -- an
 10 out-of-control train; it was because of the train; it
 11 wasn't the track. And it ran right into a neighborhood
 12 and obliterated a neighborhood and buried it in soda
 13 ash. And it was because it was coming down, not up.

...2 14 I want to thank the DOE for all the cooperation
 15 I have ever had with them. Just keep going with Yucca
 16 Mountain; more cooperation with San Bernardino County.
 17 We should never have to hear San Bernardino County
 18 saying I didn't know about this. If they didn't know
 19 about it, it was because they ignored, because I know it
 20 was there ten years ago, because I was there. So thank
 21 you.